AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3, as follows:

BACKGROUND ~~TO THE INVENTION~~.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 23, as follows:

SUMMARY ~~OF THE INVENTION~~.

Page 4, after line 17, insert the following as a separate paragraph:

--Figure 2c is a graph showing a stability premium tariff;--.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 9, as follows:

~~Figure 4 is a schematic~~ Figures 4a-4b are schematics showing the component objects of a charging architecture for use with the network of Figure 1;

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 21, as follows:

~~Figure 5 shows~~ Figures 5a-5b show data passed between the accounting objects of Figure 4;

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 31, as follows:

DESCRIPTION OF ~~EXAMPLES~~EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 18, as follows:

Figure 2c shows a ~~possible~~ possibility for the stability premium tariff. This tariff may be embodied in a Java function multicast to the users. Curve C is communicated to the customer terminal as another subsidiary algorithm that contributes to the main tariff algorithm. The customer may choose a period of price stability and calculate the premium above the spot price that ~~his~~ will require using curve C. Curve B is an example of the stable price chosen in a particular case. Once the period of stability expires a new one can be bought at the premium over the spot price at that time. To buy a period of price stability, the customer must announce the period required and the range of addresses for which is applies to her provider. It may be required for one address (e.g. for the duration of an Internet phone call to a single person) or for a range of addresses (e.g. for a video conference). Certain risk-averse customers might request stable pricing for all addresses all the time.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 19, as follows:

Figures 5a-5b shows the data which are passed between the accounting objects. In this example the account data comprises: account identity; bill record identity; service type identifier; source address; destination address; tariff identity; time; period (i.e. the period covered by the bill record); units; costs; and currency.

In addition, the payment data comprises the amount of money and the currency of payment.